DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 475 635 PS 031 253

TITLE	NH CAN: Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together. New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network, 2003 Children's Agenda.
INSTITUTION	Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, Concord.
PUB DATE	2003-00-00
NOTE	26p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, Two Greenwood Avenue, Concord, NH 03301. Tel: 603-225-2264; Fax: 603-225-8264; e-mail: NHCAN@ChildrenNH.org; Web site: http://www.ChildrenNH.org. For full text: http://www.childrennh.org/ 2003CA.pdf.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Change Strategies; *Child Advocacy; Child Health; Child Safety; Child Welfare; *Childhood Needs; Educational Finance; Enrollment; Health Insurance; Housing; *Objectives; Outreach Programs; Partnerships in Education; School Safety; State Legislation
IDENTIFIERS	*New Hampshire

ABSTRACT

Noting that investments in children are often the first casualties of lean state budgets, this advocacy "toolbox" offers information on the most pressing needs of New Hampshire children and on effective solutions. The toolbox begins with information on advocacy and characteristics of an effective child advocate; specifically, an effective advocate knows the issue, builds partnerships, communicates the issue, and uses a "problem-solving" tone in presenting the issue. The toolbox next presents information on the New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NHCAN), including membership and contact information. Finally, the toolbox details the issues and strategies of the NHCAN children's agenda: (1) support public engagement and legislation to ensure the right of all students to a high-quality public education by using valid and reliable research to assess the cost of constitutionally adequate education at a level which ensures high quality, and fully fund the costs through a sufficient and reliable revenue plan; (2) identify and eliminate barriers to the development of housing affordable to families with children; (3) improve child protection services by achieving national standards and increasing accountability of the Division for Children, Youth and Families; (4) expand New Hampshire's safe school zone law to prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms; (5) ensuring adequate state funding for outreach to, and enrollment of, every eligible child in the New Hampshire Healthy Kids health insurance program, based on current eligibility levels; (6) support efforts to raise the state cigarette tax by $1 per pack and dedicate the additional revenue to a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program and to state-funded programs that meet the health needs of children and families;(7) increase access to health care for children and pregnant women among ethnic or racial minorities; and (8) support legislation and public engagement that strengthens links between parents, early childhood care providers and educators so all children will enter school prepared to meet their full potential. (HTH)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

2003 Children's Agenda

ED 475 635

2003 Priority Action Steps

- Guarantee high-quality public education for all children
- Ensure state funding for the NH Healthy Kids health insurance program
- Promote high-quality early learning
- Improve child protection services
- Eliminate barriers to affordable housing

NH CAN

New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network

Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Ellen Shemitz
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
1

PS 031253

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Two Greenwood Avenue, Concord, NH 03301
tel (603) 225-2264 fax (603) 225-8264
NHCAN@ChildrenNH.org
www.ChildrenNH.org

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The 2003 Children's Agenda is funded by the members of

Children's Alliance
of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Two Greenwood Avenue, Concord, NH 03301
tel (603) 225-2264 fax (603) 225-8264
NHCAN@ChildrenNH.org www.ChildrenNH.org

and dedicated to the memory of Bruce E. Friedman, a tireless advocate for the children of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire cannot thrive unless its children thrive. The best long-term investments we as a state can make are those that improve the health, education, safety, and economic security of New Hampshire's children.

Yet, given the competition for government resources, those investments are often the first casualties of lean budgets. Why? Because children lack both forms of "voice" in the political process – they cannot vote and they don't contribute to candidates and campaigns.

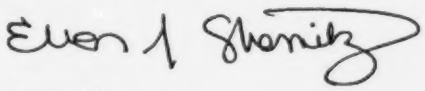
Powerless children need powerful friends. Children need caring adults to advocate passionately and ceaselessly for their well-being.

Child advocacy is what the non-partisan Children's Alliance of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network are all about. We understand the competition for government spending and the limited voice of children in politics. We understand that to make a difference for New Hampshire's children, we need to be clear about their most pressing needs and we need to propose effective solutions.

Children in New Hampshire need every powerful, passionate advocate they can get.

Children in New Hampshire need you.

So please: Keep and use this advocacy toolbox. Read NH CAN's Children's Agenda and think about what role you can play in advancing these very-important issues. Pay attention. Take action. Together, we can transform New Hampshire into the most child- and family-friendly state in the nation.



Ellen J. Shemitz
President, Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
Steering Committee Chair, New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network

Children's Alliance
of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN

What is child advocacy?

Child advocacy is working to improve the lives of children. It can be as simple as talking to a neighbor or as complex as building broad coalitions to address complex social problems. It can be working individually with a single child or working to change public policy affecting tens of thousands of children. Child advocacy is building community commitment to our children.

Who is a child advocate?

Child advocates are:

- Individuals who raise their voices for children
- Citizens who understand that New Hampshire cannot thrive until all of its children thrive.
- Voters who understand that children cannot vote, but that children's issues are important.
- People who, instead of saying, "Someone should **do** something about that," **take action** and actually **do something about it**.
- Part of the solution.

An effective child advocate:

Knows the issue

* Be informed — read the newspaper, watch the news, attend community meetings. Be sure you know the facts before you speak. And be willing to admit what you do not know.

* Investigate Internet resources.

* Understand both sides of the issue, so you can anticipate opposing arguments.

* Support your argument with facts that can be verified by a credible source.

* Learn to navigate the state's website (http://www.state.nh.us/), where you can read the texts of bills, follow them through the legislature, identify your legislators and contact them.

* Attend public hearings addressing your issue.

Builds partnerships

* Get involved with a group that works with or for children and youth (i.e. Children's Alliance or any NH CAN partner organization).

* Organize a campaign in your neighborhood or community to support children and youth.

* Reach out to powerful voices in the community who do not often address children's needs. These "unlikely" partners can be powerful spokespersons.

* Use partnerships to communicate your issue to legislators, agency staff, private corporations, etc. There is power (perceived or real) in numbers, so communicate how many people are within the partnerships you establish.

Communicates the issue

Look for opportunities to use the news media to your advantage:

1. Write letters to the editor.

Tips: Tell personal stories that touch readers' hearts.

Present facts clearly and succinctly.

Keep letters short and on a single topic.

Make letters legible.

Always include your full address and telephone number.

2. Write compelling press releases.

Tips: Include the most important information first (who, what, when, where, and why), then follow with more detail.

Keep it short and simple.

Always provide your contact information at the top.

3. Call talk radio shows when they address your issue.

Tip: Don't ramble. Rehearse in your mind or aloud and get to your point within two or three sentences.

4. Form relationships with reporters who appear interested in your issue or who cover it regularly.

Tips: Don't wait for them to call you. Keep them informed when there's something worth covering.

Offer to connect them with information, sources and resources.

5. Testify at public and legislative hearings.

Tips: Don't be intimidated. Legislators are people too, and they often need your information.

Briefly introduce yourself and your organization.

State your position (for or against a bill or initiative) up front.

Keep your presentation simple and to the point.

Make eye contact with your audience.

Use specific examples, numbers and facts to make your case.

When possible, offer alternatives such as solutions tried elsewhere.

Always provide written testimony, but don't distribute it until you are finished speaking, unless there are charts or other information you want to refer to.

Thank the committee for the opportunity to speak. Offer to answer questions.

6. Contact legislators by phone.

Tips: Call at a reasonable time: during business hours, or at home after 8 a.m. and before 9 p.m.

Prepare a few key points you want to make. Be as concise and brief as possible.

Introduce yourself and ask if it is a good time to call.

Ask if she or he is familiar with the topic of your call — adjust your comments accordingly.

Before launching into your points, ask where she or he stands on the issue; there may be no need for persuasion.

Ask "Can I count on your vote?" If the answer is noncommittal, tell them, "I'll be watching to see how you vote." End the conversation by thanking them.

Be sure to follow up to thank them for voting the way you requested, or to express your disappointment.

7. Write letters to legislators.

Tips: Limit length to one legible page.

Introduce your issue and your position: "I am writing in support of House Bill (number ...), the early learning bill before your committee ..."

Give reasons for your position, supported by credible facts.

If possible, describe a personal experience that has informed or influenced your position.

Tell the legislator how you'd like him or her to vote.

Be sure to follow up to thank them for voting the way you requested, or to express your disappointment.

8. Speak out at community meetings.

Tip: Use every opportunity to educate your community on the importance of supporting children and youth.

Don't be tone-deaf

Here's a lesson many advocates learn the hard way: How you present your issue can be even more important than the information itself.

When someone thinks they disagree with you, and your dialogue is about those things that separate the two of you, you're not going to win them over. The other person is likely to stop thinking about the issue itself and start defending his or her political or ideological identity.

Strongly worded or overtly partisan speech may energize fellow activists and get the attention of policymakers, but it doesn't get most people thinking about solutions for children and family issues.

It's called "rhetorical tone," and it sounds like this:

"The President has betrayed our trust by revoking his commitment to early education," or "The governor is raiding the tobacco settlement piggybank to fund his agribusiness friends, not poor families."

It sounds like, and can feel like, an attack.

On the other hand, when you appeal to people as reasonable folks trying to do the right thing, when you present a reasonable and balanced discussion of a problem, its causes and the potential solutions, they are much better at absorbing new information.

The "problem-solving tone" is one of respect and engagement:

"Investing in education requires long-term planning, not short-term fixes. You wouldn't plan for your own child's college education the way the Administration is proposing to finance education reform."

Criticize the plan, not the people. Demonstrate inconsistency and illogic, not hypocrisy. Show how the proposal violates people's fundamental values.

Another tenet of effective advocacy is that if you do not present a clear standard that your idea should be held up to, those who oppose the idea will provide their own standard.

An example: "We all want our children to have the opportunity to do better than we have done. A refusal to fund public education closes off opportunities for children who attend public schools ..."

These are strong statements. But they do not signal to the listener that partisanship or ideology are the motivations. And they establish a standard – children having the opportunity to do better than their parents – that most Americans will agree with.

The bottom line: Be reasonable, be a problem-solver, speak to those values that unite us, and you'll be a more successful advocate!

(Adapted from Kids Count E-Zine of FrameWorks Institute.)

Resources on the Web

New Hampshire

Audio of House sessions — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/live/default.html

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire - www.ChildrenNH.org

KIDS COUNT N.H. census data online — http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/aeccensus.cgi?action=profileresults&area=31#2

New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies — http://www.unh.edu/nhcpps/

New Hampshire Health Data Inventory — http://www.nhhealthdata.org/index.html

New Hampshire laws (RSAs) — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/indexes/default.html

New Hampshire Quick Bill Search — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/billstatus/quickbill.html

House calendars and journals — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/hcaljourns/

How the legislative process works — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/misc/legprocess.html

Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy — http://www.jbartlett.org/

Senate calendars and journals — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljourns/

Webster: NH State Government Online — http://www.state.nh.us/

Who's my legislator? — http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/whosmyleg/

National

Annie E. Casey Foundation (national KIDS COUNT) — http://www.aecf.org

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities -- http://www.cbpp.org

ChildStats.gov — http://www.childstats.gov/

Child Trends Databank — http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/

Child Welfare League of America — http://www.cwla.org/

FrameWorks Institute — http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/

National Association of Child Advocates: Important Links — http://www.childadvocacy.org/implinks.html

Strategies for Children — http://www.strategiesforchildren.org

The Future of Children — http://www.futureofchildren.org/index.htm

Thomas: Legislative Information on the Internet — http://thomas.loc.gov/

Glossary

Affordable Housing – Housing for which the occupant pays no more than 30 percent of income for gross costs, including utilities.

Assessment – A child protection case worker's investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect.

Child abuse – Under New Hampshire law, refers to any child who has been: (a) Sexually abused; or (b) Intentionally physically injured; or (c) Psychologically injured so that the child exhibits symptoms of emotional problems generally recognized to result from consistent mistreatment or neglect; or (d) Physically injured by other than accidental means.

Child neglect – Under New Hampshire law, refers to a child who: (a) Has been abandoned by his parents, guardian, or custodian; or (b) Is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his physical, mental, or emotional health, when it is established that his health has suffered or is very likely to suffer serious impairment; and the deprivation is not due primarily to the lack of financial means of the parents, guardian or custodian; or (c) Whose parents, guardian or custodian are unable to discharge their responsibilities to and for the child because of incarceration, hospitalization or other physical or mental incapacity.

Child Protection Act – Set of New Hampshire laws established in 1979 to provide protection to children whose life, health or welfare is endangered and to establish a judicial system for protecting the rights of all parties involved in child abuse or neglect cases.

Cognitive learning – Learning associated with the acquisition of problem-solving abilities and with intelligence and conscious thought.

Concealed-carry permits – Firearm permits that allow a person to carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle or concealed on his or her person, such as under a jacket.

Cultural competency – Knowledge, behavior, attributes and policies that allow an individual or agency to work effectively with (or in the case of medical providers, treat), persons of other cultures.

Eric L. – A class-action federal lawsuit brought against New Hampshire's Dept. of Health and Human Services in 1991 on behalf of abused and neglected children, alleging that the existing child protection system violated their rights. The state agreed to a five-year settlement that set in place a series of reforms, with deadlines. The agreement has been extended through January 2003. The state is not in compliance with the agreement.

Foster care – Professionally planned services for children who, for a variety of reasons, cannot live with their birth parents or extended families of origin and who are not ready for adoption.

Gun-Free School Act – A federal law enacted in 1994 which requires that local educational agencies implement a policy "requiring referral to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm or weapon to a school served by such agency." Under the GFSA, each state receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must expel for at least a year any student who brings a firearm to school. A loophole exempts concealed-carry permit holders.

Head Start – A comprehensive, federally funded child development program which serves children from birth to age 5, pregnant women and their families. The child-focused program has the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families.

Healthy Kids NH –Since 1997, the federal government has sent states money to extend health coverage to low-income uninsured children and given states the flexibility to expand Medicaid coverage, create a private insurance program, or a combination of the two. In New Hampshire, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is administered by a partnership of New Hampshire Healthy Kids Corp. and the state Dept. of Health and Human Services. Matching funds are provided through a grant from the Healthy New Hampshire Foundation.

Homeless – Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Legislative Budget Assistant Office – A state agency created in 1953 to conduct investigations, analyses, or research into the financial activities of New Hampshire government entities. The Legislative Budget Assistant is appointed by the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee prior to the beginning of each regular session of the legislature, and is responsible for the proper execution of the respective functions of the audit and budget divisions.

Low birth weight – Newborns who weigh less than 5.5 pounds, and have a higher probability of experiencing developmental problems.

Multidisciplinary case review – Reviews of child deaths conducted jointly by medical, law enforcement, judicial, legal, victim services, public health, mental health and child protection professionals to learn how such deaths could be prevented.

NH Youth Risk Behavior Survey – The N.H. Dept. of Education conducts a Centers for Disease Control survey of risk behaviors among public high school students. The survey, conducted in odd-numbered years, allows comparison of New Hampshire data to that of other states and the nation.

Poverty level – Also called the Federal Poverty Threshold, it is a national income figure that varies by family size and composition and is used to measure poverty. The poverty level is calculated annually by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index and used as a measure of income eligibility for a variety of social services. If a family's total income is less than that family's poverty level, every family member is considered poor.

Tobacco lawsuit settlement – Also known as the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement. In 1998, the Attorneys General of 46 states (including New Hampshire) settled a lawsuit with the four largest tobacco companies in the United States to recover costs associated with treating smoking-related illnesses. The agreements called for the tobacco industry to pay the states more than $200 billion over the next 25 years, remove all billboard advertising and advertising in sports arenas, stop using cartoon characters to sell cigarettes, and make many of their internal documents available to the public. The tobacco companies also agreed not to market or promote their products to young people.

Tobacco-related deaths – Among adults, deaths from lung cancer, some heart diseases and chronic airway obstruction are often related to tobacco use.

Workforce housing – Housing affordable to families whose earnings are 80 percent or less of the state's median income.

The New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network (NH CAN) was founded by the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire in 1999 in response to legislators and government officials who said children's advocates were hampered by the lack of a unified voice.

The legislators wanted clear answers to questions like: "What do children need most?" "What should government do first?" and "What can communities do?"

NH CAN provides those answers – and more.

NH CAN is a network of child-serving organizations and advocacy groups determined to drive governmental policy, change budget priorities, and inspire community action to improve the health and well-being of all children and youth.

NH CAN's vision is far-reaching: All children and youth in New Hampshire will live in healthy and nurturing environments that enable them to reach their full potential. The network advances its vision by identifying and prioritizing the needs of children statewide in annual Children's Agendas, by identifying and supporting activists committed to turning these Agendas into action, and by connecting people who work for children with the data and resources they need to make a difference.

Since its inception, NH CAN has grown from fewer than 30 partner organizations and advisors to more than 150, and it continues to grow. The network is funded by the Children's Alliance through individual contributions, corporate donors, and foundation support. The network is guided by a 12-member steering committee, of which the Children's Alliance is both the founding member and chair. NH CAN is coordinated by the Public Policy Director of the Children's Alliance.

NH CAN partner organizations and advisors (individuals, legislators and state agency representatives) are committed to a prevention-based approach to child health and well-being. Together, participants create annual Children's Agendas in workgroups, vote on priorities at annual Children's Summits, and/or work on one or more Agenda action steps. NH CAN partners and advisors receive regular e-mail updates and alerts on children's issues and Agenda-related legislation, as well as detailed progress reports on Agenda action steps. NH CAN partners and advisors keep the network informed about developments in their areas of expertise.

NH CAN's strength is in the number, the expertise, and the commitment of its participants to improving the health and well-being of all New Hampshire's children. The more participants who identify themselves as NH CAN members, the more visible and effective the entire network becomes. NH CAN urges all participants to identify themselves as a NH CAN partner or advisor, and to refer other organizations that might be interested in joining our work.

For more information about NH CAN, please visit the web site of the Children's Alliance, or contact the NH CAN Coordinator at: 225-2264 or by e-mail at svarnum@ChildrenNH.org.

NH CAN Steering Committee

Ellen Shemitz -- Chair
Children's Alliance of NH
2 Greenwood Ave.
Concord, NH 03301
225-2264
EShemitz@ChildrenNH.org

Jonathan Baird, Esquire
NH Legal Assistance
408 Moody Building
Claremont, NH 03743
227-9195
JBaird@nhla.org

Charlene Baxter
Family and Youth Development
University of New Hampshire
123 Taylor Hall
Durham, NH 03824
Charlene.Baxter@unh.edu

Tricia Brooks
NH Healthy Kids
25 Hall St.
Concord, NH 03301
228-2925
tbrooks@nhhealthykids.org

Judith Colla
Hood Center for Children and Families
1 Medical Center Dr.
Lebanon, NH 03756
653-1419
Judith.B.Colla@dartmouth.edu

Gail Garceau
Heritage United Way
228 Maple St., 4th Floor
Manchester, NH 03103
625-6939
gail.garceau@unitedway.org

Rep. Elizabeth Hager
United Way of Merrimack County
46 South Main St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-2595
lizh@unitedwymc.org

Mark Joyce
NH School Administrators Association
12 Cross St.
Penacook, NH 03303
753-4479
mjoyce@nhsaa.org

Keryn Kriegl
Families First of the Greater Seacoast
100 Campus Dr., Suite 12
Portsmouth, NH 03801
422-8208
KKriegl@communitycampus.org

Jack Lightfoot
Child and Family Services
99 Hanover St.
Manchester, NH 03101
668-1920, ext. 145
lightfootj@cfsnh.org

Cheryl Avery Molloy
Prevent Child Abuse NH
4 Bicentennial Sq., Suite 3A
Concord, NH 03301
225-5441
pcanh@pcanh.org

NH CAN Coordinator
Steve Varnum
Children's Alliance of NH
2 Greenwood Ave.
Concord, NH 03301
225-2264
SVarnum@ChildrenNH.org

PARTNERS

AFL-CIO, NH
Jessica Clark
161 Londonderry Turnpike Rd.
Hooksett, NH 03106
623-7302
jclarknh@workingfamilies.com

Alliance for Better Child Care
Tammy Hart
2 Ledgeview Dr.
Rochester, NH 03839
332-2945
tkhartx2@aol.com

Alliance for Community Supports/Project Renew
Gail M. Cormier
250 Commercial St.,
Suite 4017
Manchester, NH 03101
628-7681
cormierlg@attbi.com

America's Promise
Wayne Jennings
339 Francestown St.
New Boston, NH 03070
487-2349
waydarjen@aol.com

American Academy of Family Physicians,
NH Chapter
Erik Pollak
7 North State St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-7083
rickpollak@attbi.com

American Cancer Society
JoAnn St. Pierre
360 State Rte. 101
Suite 501
Bedford, NH 03110
472-8899
joann.st.pierre@cancer.org

American Federation of Teachers, Northern New England Council
James Rust
553 Route 3A South
Bow, NH 03304
223-0747
nnec95@aol.com

American Friends Service Committee, NH Program
Arnie Alpert
4 Park St., Suite 209
Concord, NH 03301
224-2407
aalpert@afsc.org

American Heart Assn.
Ellen B. McCooey
20 Merrimack St.
Manchester, NH 03101
669-5833
Ellen.McCooey@heart.org

Atkinson Academy PTA
Kate Delfino
13 Wood Dr.
Atkinson, NH 03811
362-4758
kdelfino@avon.net

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families
Alan Robichaud
1 Mill Plaza
Laconia, NH 03246
528-3185
ajrobich@bccj.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters, NH State Alliance
Dick Ingram
8 Center St.
Exeter, NH 03833
778-0277
dingram@seacoastbbbs.org

Bi-State Primary Care Assn.
Tom Bunnell
3 South St.
Concord, NH 03301
228-2830
tbunnell@bistatepca.org

Boscawen Elementary School PTA
PTA President
1 B.E.S.T. Ave.
Boscawen, NH 03303
753-6512

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of NH
Marcia Sink
44 Walnut St.
P.O. Box 1327
Manchester, NH 03105
626-4600
speakup@CASAnh.org

Casey Family Services, NH
Julie Skinner
105 Loudon Rd., Bldg. 2
Concord, NH 03301
224-8909
jskinner@caseyfamilyservices.org

Cedarcrest
Cathy Gray
91 Maple Ave.
Keene, NH 03431
358-3384
cgray@cedarcrest4kids.org

Child and Family Services
Jack Lightfoot
99 Hanover St., P.O. Box 448
Manchester, NH 03105
668-1920, ext. 145
lightfootj@cfsnh.org

Child Development Center of Strafford County
Alan Reed-Erickson
P.O. Box 1921
Rochester, NH 03866
332-2848
are@childdevelopment-rochester.org

Child Health Services
Rob Nordgren
1245 Elm St.
Manchester, NH 03101
668-6629
rnordgren@childhealthsvc.org

Children of Sullivan County
Becky Gentes
165 Broad St.
Claremont, NH 03243
543-3481
families@vrh.org

Children's Alliance of NH
Ellen Shemitz
Steve Varnum
2 Greenwood Ave.
Concord, NH 03301
225-2264
EShemitz@ChildrenNH.org
SVarnum@ChildrenNH.org

Children's Coalition of Southern NH
c/o Region 10
Claudia Ferber
8 Commercial Dr.
Atkinson, NH 03811
893-3548
cferber@cimbehav.org

The Children's Place and Parent Education Center
Diane Hastings
27 Burns Ave.
P.O. Box 576
Concord, NH 03302-0576
226-0507
dhasti@hotmail.com

Claremont City Welfare
Brenda Vigneault
58 Tremont Sq.
Claremont, NH 03743
542-7007
welfaredir@claremontnh.com

Claremont Coalition
Scott Johnson
1 Barberry Lane
Concord, NH 03301
228-1109
sjohnson@SVCNH.org

Community Child Care Center
Jackie Cowell
100 Campus Dr., Suite 20
Portsmouth, NH 03801
422-8223
jcowell@communitycampus.org

Community Support Network, Inc.
Jay Haines
P.O. Box 1881
Concord, NH 03302-1881
229-1982
jhaines@csni.org

Concord Community Substance Abuse Prevention Council
Donna Muir
46 South Main St.
Concord, NH 03301
223-2023
Donna.Muir@verizon.net

Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions
Peter E. Clarke
105 Pleasant St., Rm. 108S
Concord, NH 03301
271-4991
pclarke@dhhs.state.nh.us

Crotched Mountain Foundation
Donald Shumway
One Verney Dr.
Greenfield, NH 03047
547-3311
Don.Shumway@crotchedmountain.org

David's House
Jane DeGange
P.O. Box 660
Lebanon, NH 03766
643-2298
jane.degange@valley.net

Disabilities Rights Center
Richard Cohen
18 Low Ave.
P.O. Box 3660
Concord, NH 03302-3660
228-0432, ext. 35
RichardC@DRCNH.org

Drugs Are Dangerous
Dick Gerrish
1 Deer Run Circle
Kingston, NH 03846
642-8839
rcg_01@msn.com

Early Childhood Mental Health of the Upper Valley
Cindy Swart
P.O. Box 154
Lyme Center, NH 03769
795-2243
cynthia.s.swart@valley.net

Early Education and Intervention Network
Debi Bennis
10 Ferry St., Suite 416
Concord, NH 03301
228-2040
eeinnh@earthlink.net

Easter Seals - NH
Patti Rawding-Anderson
555 Auburn St.
Manchester, NH 03103
623-8863 ext. 9201
panderson@eastersealsnh.org

Episcopal Diocese of NH
The Rt. Rev. Douglas E. Theuner
63 Green St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-1914

The Family Center of Greater Peterborough
Susan Knight
P.O. Box 207
Peterborough, NH 03458
924-6306
Sknight@monad.net

Families First of the Greater Seacoast
Keryn Kriegl
Helen Taft
100 Campus Dr., Suite 12
Portsmouth, NH 03801
422-8208
Kkriegl@communitycampus.org
Htaft@communitycampus.org

Families Matter in Carroll County
Rachel Jarosz
P.O. Box 892
Center Ossipee, NH 03814
539-8223
FMICC@ncia.net

Family Mediation and Juvenile Services
Beverly Turner
16 Academy Ave.
Atkinson, NH 03811
362-9957
info@familymediation.my.com

Family Resource Center at Gorham
Catherine P. McDowell
123 Main St.
Gorham, NH 03581
466-5190
resource@ncia.net

Familystrength
Ellie Stein-Cowan
Ken Norton
85 North State St.
Concord, NH 03301
228-3266
esteincowan@familystrength.org
knorton@familystrength.org

Foundation for Healthy Communities
Shawn LaFrance
125 Airport Rd.
Concord, NH 03301
225-0900
slafrance@nhha.org

Friends of Recovery, NH
Joseph Harding
1492 Elm St.
Manchester, NH 03101
647-4629
joe@fornh.org

The Friends Program
Jim Doremus
249 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301
228-1193
jdoremus@tds.net

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Lakes Region
Vicki Meyer
P. O. Box 363
New Hampton, NH 03256
Loonatic@ncia.net

Girl Scouts of Swift Water Council
Sarah Brown
8 Perimeter Rd.
Manchester, NH 03103
627-4158, ext. 122
sbrown@swgirlscouts.org

Good Beginnings of Sullivan County
Ellie Tsetsi
243 Elm St.
Claremont, NH 03743
542-1848
Families@vrh.org

Granite State Youth Mentors
Mimi Bergere
15 Constitution Dr., Suite 105
Bedford, NH 03110
589-8003
mbergere@nhmentors.org

Greater Derry/Greater Salem Regional Transportation Council
Patricia A. Monfet
58 East Broadway
P.O. Box 1466
Derry, NH 03038
432-3674
pmrtc@hotmail.com

Growing Places
Cellisa Hart
37 Main St.
Durham, NH 03824
868-1335
growingplace@aol.com

Healthy Minds and Bodies Infant Mental Health Regional Team
CLM Behavioral Health
Claudia J. Ferber
44 Stiles Rd.
Salem, NH 03079
893-3548
cferber@clmbehav.org

Henniker Parent Teachers Assn.
Theresa Maier
8 Pine Hill Rd.
Henniker, NH 03242
428-3673
tmaier@attbi.com

Heritage United Way
Gail M. Garceau
228 Maple St., 4th floor
Manchester, NH 03103
625-6939
gail.garceau@unitedway.org

Home Health and Hospice Care
Margaret Gilmour
22 Prospect St.
Nashua, NH 03060
882-2941
Margaret.Gilmour@hhhc.org

The Hood Center for Children and Families
Judith B. Colla
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756
653-1419
Judith.B.Colla@dartmouth.edu

HUB Family Support Center
Mary Sheffield
61 Rutland St.
Dover, NH 03820
749-9754
mesheffield@HUBfamilies.org

Immaculate Heart of Mary Children's Center
Susan M. Perry
180 Loudon Rd.
Concord, NH 03301
226-3458
sueperry@attbi.com

Interlocken, Inc.
Richard Herman
RR 2, Box 165
Hillsboro, NH 03244
478-3166
Richard@interlocken.org

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Edna M. Mordecai
Box 655
New London, NH 03257
526-4457
mmord1@earthlink.net

Keene Day Care Center
Bonnie Rill
86 Wood St.
Keene, NH 03431
352-2129
bonnie@webryders.com

Kids Can Make A Difference
Larry Levine
P.O. Box 54
Kittery Point, ME 03905
(207) 439-9588
kids@kidscanmakeadifference.org

Kingston Police Department
Chief Donald W. Briggs, Jr.
16 Main St.,
P.O. Box 201
Kingston, NH 03848
642-5742

Lakes Region Day Care Center
Sara Allen
David Stamps
349 Meredith Center
Laconia, NH 03246
524-3328
dbstamps@dbstamps.com

Lakes Region United Way
Bruce VanDerven
95 Water St., Suite 1
Laconia, NH 03246
524-6864
uniway@worldpath.net

Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Assn.
Jan Sahler
P.O. Box 2209
New London, NH 03257
526-4077
JanSahler@lsrvna.crhc.org

Londonderry High School PTSA
Lynn Ann Grainger
4 Watts Road
Londonderry, NH 03053
434-7212
LAGPTA2@aol.com

Makin' It Happen Coalition for Resilient Youth
LuAnn Oatman
27 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH 03101
622-6116
luann@makinithappen.org

Manchester Health Dept., School Nursing Division
Elaine Douville
1528 Elm St.
Manchester, NH 03101
624-6466
edouvill@ci.manchester.nh.us

March of Dimes, NH
Leslie Formby
22 Bridge St.
Concord, NH 03301
228-0317
lformby@nhmodimes.org

Microptix
Robert Copeland
594 South St.
Hopkinton, NH 03229
746-4887
taiv56@totalnetnh.net

Million Mom March, NH Chapter
Laurel Redden
P.O. Box 661
Peterborough, NH 03458
458-2666
nhmmm@attbi.com

Monadnock Family Services
Madeline Ullrich
310 Marlboro St.
Keene, NH 03431
357-4400, ext. 61
mullrich@mfs.org

Monadnock United Way
Katherine Snow
23 Center St.
Keene, NH 03431
352-4209
Kathi@muw.org

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, NH
Michael Cohen
10 Ferry St.
Concord, NH 03301
225-5359
mcohen@naminh.org

National Assn. of Social Workers, NH Chapter
Jill Johnson Bardsley
18 Low Ave.
Concord, NH 03301
226-7135
naswnh@worldpath.net

National Congress for Fathers & Children, NH Chapter
Michael J. Geanoulis, Sr.
P.O. Box 45
New Castle, NH 03854-0045
436-8810
geancfc@juno.com

National Education Assn., NH
Dennis Murphy
103 North State St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-7751
dmurphy@nea.org

Neighbor to Neighbor NH
Will Reid
605 Union St.
Manchester, NH 03101
623-0577
wsrunc@aol.com

Network NH
Chris Zerillo
P.O. Box 2032
Concord, NH 03302-2032
226-7516, ext. 3216
czerillo@riverbendcmhc.org

New Beginnings - A Woman's Crisis Center
Kathy Keller
P.O. Box 622
Laconia, NH 03247
528-6511
Director@newbeginningsNH.org

New Futures
John Bunker
William Butynski
29 Hampshire Ave., Suite 1
Portsmouth, NH 03801
431-1770
jbunker@new-futures.org
bbutynski@new-futures.org

NFI North, Inc.
Karen Gincott
105 Loudon Rd., Bldg. 4
Concord, NH 03301
226-2713
KarenGincott@NAFI.com

NH Assn. for the Education of Young Children
Diane Heitmiller
P. O. Box 3656
Concord, NH 03302-3656
225-4856
dheitmiller@sps.edu

NH Assn. of School Principals
Peggy McAllister
41A Terrill Park Dr.
Concord, NH 03301
225-3431
nhasp@aol.com

NH Assn. of School Psychologists
Nan Clough
Two Eagle Square, Suite 400
Concord, NH 03301
225-1998
dooopy@aol.com

New Hampshire Ceasefire
Chuck Drew
P.O. Box 494
Portsmouth, NH 03802-0494
431-8101
nhceasefire@attbi.com

NH Child Care Assn.
George Thirsk
South Main St.
P.O. Box 3495
Concord, NH 03302
224-6308
nhcca3@aol.com

NH Children's Trust Fund
Geraldine Donahue
Karen Carpenter
91-93 North State St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-1279
dclic97@aol.com
khcarpenter@nhctf.org

NH Citizen's Alliance
Sam Mekrut
4 Park St.
Concord, NH 03301
225-2097
smekrut@totalnetnh.net

NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Grace Mattern
Linda Griebsch
P.O. Box 353
Concord, NH 03302
224-8893
mattern@nhcadsv.org
linda@nhcadsv.org

NH Coalition to End Homelessness
Roy Morrison
16 Leaf Lane
Chocorua, NH 03817
498-0189
morrison03817@aol.com

NH Commission on the Status of Women
Theresa deLangis
State House Annex, Room 334
Concord, NH 03301
271-2660
tdelangis@admin.state.nh.us

NH Conference United Church of Christ
Judy Lloyd
314 South Main St.
Concord, NH 03301
225-6647

NH Cultural Diversity Awareness Council
Wayne Jennings
393 Francestown Rd.
New Boston, NH 03070
487-2349
waydarjen@aol.com

NH Developmental Disabilities Council
Gordon Allen
10 Ferry St., Suite 315
Concord, NH 03301
271-3236
gallen@dhhs.state.nh.us

NH Family Child Care
Beverly J. Lynch
11 Petersen Rd.
Brookline, NH 03033
673-2812
PurplePony@aol.com

NH Family Voices
Martha-Jean Madison
NHDHHS
6 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301
271-4525
nhfv@yahoo.com

NH Head Start Parents' Assn., Southern NH Services
Susan Wall
P.O. Box 5040
Manchester, NH 03108
668-8010
susan@snhs.org

NH Healthy Kids Corp.
Tricia Brooks
25 Hall St.
Concord, NH 03301
228-2925
tbrooks@nhhealthykids.com

NH Hospital Assn.
Michael Hill
125 Airport Rd.
Concord, NH 03301
225-0900
mhill@nhha.org

NH Housing Forum
Martha Yager
4 Park St., Suite 209
Concord, NH 03301
224-2407
myager@afsc.org

NH Minority Health Coalition
Jazmin Miranda-Smith
P.O. Box 3992
Manchester, NH 03101
627-7703
Jazmin@nhhealthequity.org

NH Parent Teachers Assn.
Barbara Moseley
21 Casey Dr.
Hooksett, NH 03106
1-877-701-4782
bmoseley3@prodigy.net

NH Partners In Health
Hood Center for Children and Families
Cindi Lapointe
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756
653-1489
Cynthia.laPointe@dartmouth.edu

NH Pediatric Society
Sol Rockenmacher, M.D.
Wendy Gladstone, M.D.
Suzanne Boulter, M.D.
7 North State St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-7083
sol.rockenmacher@hitchcock.org

NH SAFE KIDS
Injury Prevention Center
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
1 Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH, 03756
653-1135
Jim.Esdon@dartmouth.edu
Elaine.Frank@dartmouth.edu

NH School Administrators Assn.
Mark Joyce
12 Cross St.
Penacook, NH 03303
753-4479
mark@nhsaa.org

NH Special Education Policy Initiative
Alice Porembski
Concord Center #315
10 Ferry St.
Concord, NH 03301
271-3236
Porembskis@aol.com

North Country United Way
Anne Corridan
P.O. Box 311
Littleton, NH 03561
444-1555
ncuw@together.net

Odyssey House, Inc.
Jim Kanak
P.O. Box 780
Hampton, NH 03843
929-3038
jkanak@odysseynh.org

Parent Information Center
Heather Thalheimer
P.O. Box 2405
Concord, NH 03302
224-7005
hthalheimer@parentinformationcenter.org

Parent to Parent Upper Valley Support Group
Maryellen Sullivan
12 Flynn St.
Lebanon, NH 03766
448-6393

Parents As Teachers, SAU#6
Jana Gillespie
165 Broad St.
Claremont, NH 03608
543-4295
lsella6105@aol.com

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) NH
Sheila Dion
P.O. Box 485
Winnisquam, NH 03289
423-6175
IADS@metrocast.net

Penacook Community Center
Mary Sweatt
76 Community Dr.
Penacook, NH 03303
753-9700
PenComCtr@aol.com

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Jennifer Frizzell
18 Low Ave.
Concord, NH 03301
225-2925
frizzell@ppnne.org

PlusTime NH
Karen Juall
Terri Warren
160 Dover Rd.
Chichester, NH 03263
798-5850
kjuall@plustime.org
twarren@plustime.org

Portsmouth Early Education Program
Beth Setear
100 Campus Dr.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
422-8228
bsetear@communitycampus.org

Prevent Child Abuse NH
Cheryl Avery Molloy
4 Bicentennial Sq., Suite 3A
Concord, NH 03301
225-5441
pcanh@pcanh.org

Richie McFarland Children's Center
Peggy Small Porter
11 Sandy Point Road
Stratham, NH 03885
778-8193
peggy@nh.ultranet.com

Riverbend Parent-Child Centers
Donna Raycraft
P.O. Box 2032
Concord, NH 03302-2032
228-1551
draycraft@riverbendcmhc.org

The Sad Café
Dick Gerrish
1 Deer Run Circle
Kingston, NH 03846
642-8839
rcg_01@msn.com

Seacoast Child Advocacy Center
Kathryn Adler
100 Campus Dr., Suite 11
Portsmouth, NH 03801
433-8540
seacoastcac@communitycampus.org

Seacoast Living Wage Campaign
Guy Chichester
P.O. Box 4744
Portsmouth, NH 03802-4744
964-6158
ryeoguyo@yahoo.com

Seacoast Visiting Nurses Assn.
Nancy Thompson
29 Lafayette Rd.
North Hampton, NH 03862
926-2066
SVNA88@aol.com

Smoke-Free New Hampshire Alliance
Debbie Carluccio
9 Cedarwood Dr.
Bedford, NH 03110
641-8866, ext. 201
debbie@nhlung.org

Success By 6 - Salem Family Resources
Cindy Jury
Fisk School
14 Main St.
Salem, NH 03079
898-5493
pkpatch@aol.com

United Way of Greater Nashua
Don Mattise
20 Broad St.
Nashua, NH 03064
882-4011
don@unitedwaynashua.org

United Way of Merrimack County
Elizabeth Hager
46 South Main St.
Concord, NH 03301
224-2595
lizh@unitedwymc.org

United Way of Merrimack Valley
Timothy Schiavoni
P.O. Box 8228
Ward Hill, MA 01835-8228
(978) 556-9273
timothy@uwmv.org

United Way of Northern New Hampshire
Rolanda Duchesne
164 Main St.
P.O. Box 614
Berlin, NH 03570
752-3343
unitdway@ncia.net

United Way of Sullivan County
Neil Richardson
P.O. Box 673
Claremont, NH 03743-0673
543-0121
unitedwaysc@nhvt.net

United Way of the Greater Seacoast
Susan Donahue Suter
71 International Dr.
Pease International Tradeport
Portsmouth, NH 03801
436-5554
sue.suter@unitedway.org

United Way of the Upper Valley
Jim Tonkavich
P.O. Box 491
Lebanon, NH 03766-0491
448-2766
jim@uwuv.org

Upper Connecticut Valley Community Coalition
Francine Bigney
RR 2, Box 13
Colebrook, NH 03576
237-4971
francine.bigney@hitchcock.org

White Birch Community Center
Dorothea Kelsey
P.O. Box 2035
Henniker, NH 03242
428-7860
kelseydnk@aol.com

Workforce Opportunity Council
Tom Shaughnessy
64 Old Suncook Road
Concord, NH 03301
229-3304
tshaughnessy@nhworkforce.org

ADVISORS

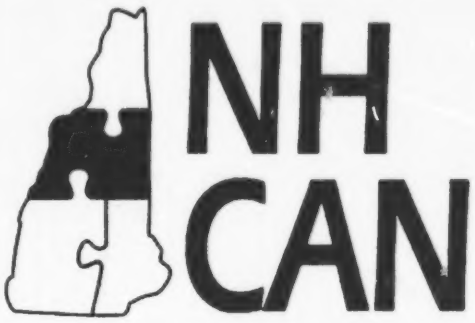
Rep. David Allison, Cornish
Jonathan Baird, Wilmot
Debora Blake, New Hampton
Robert Chamberlin, Canterbury
Earl Foss, Concord
Rep. Barbara French, Henniker
Mandy Gennaro, Plymouth
Rep. Mary Stuart Gile, Concord
Beverly Grenert, Contoocook
Rep. James Pilliod, Belmont
Rep. Frances Potter, Concord
Rep. Marjorie Smith, Durham
David Lamarre Vincent, Concord

NH Bureau of Child Care Licensing
NH Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
NH Bureau of Oral Health
NH Child Development Bureau, Head Start Collaboration
NH Dept. of Education, Office of the Commissioner
NH Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of the Commissioner
NH Division of Children, Youth and Families
New Hampshire Employment Program
New Hampshire National Guard
NH Office of Community and Public Health
NH Office of Family Services

2003 Children's Agenda

Fast facts

- The "adequacy" figure set by New Hampshire for public school education ($3,201) was less than half the average per-pupil cost across all grades ($6,738) in school year 2000-2001.
- A statewide property tax created to fund education has done little to decrease per-pupil spending disparities between elementary schools in wealthy and less-affluent school districts.
- During the 2000-2001 school year, Newington spent $11,328.22 per pupil and Allenstown spent $5,455.37 per pupil.
- Tax rates in the five Claremont Coalition districts match or exceed the rates that were levied in 1996-97, before *Claremont II*.



Support public engagement and legislation to ensure the right of all students to a high-quality public education by using valid and reliable research to:
(a) assess the cost of a constitutionally adequate education at a level which ensures high quality, and
(b) fully fund the costs through a sufficient and reliable revenue plan.

An educated citizenry is a cornerstone of American democracy. The tenet that all children have equal access to a quality public education is fundamental to our society, culture and government.

Thomas Jefferson perhaps said it best: "If a nation expects to be both ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Our state constitution reflects our founders' understanding of the essential role of public education. As stated by the New Hampshire Supreme Court, "Public Education is a fundamental building block of our society, culture and government. The provision of an adequate education to every New Hampshire child is the constitutionally mandated duty of the state government."

The constitution leaves it to the legislature to define, in concrete terms, how best to meet this mandate. In the *Claremont* cases, the state Supreme Court read the constitution as imposing broad parameters.

First, that "An adequate education goes beyond reading, writing and arithmetic and includes: oral and written communication skills, knowledge of economic, social, political and governmental systems, knowledge of mental and physical wellness, grounding in the arts, and preparation for post-secondary education."

Second, that neither poverty, geography, disability, racial, ethnic nor cultural factors could justify a failure to offer every child an adequate education.

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's first *Claremont* ruling, the state has failed to meet its constitutional obligations. Rather than meet the challenge of fairness in public education, the state has chosen to subjugate this fundamental value to the lesser interest of protecting wealth.

How? From 1686 to the present, public education in New Hampshire has been funded through property taxes. Until 1999, those property taxes were locally assessed and distributed. The problem with using local property taxes for education is that not all property is taxed equally. Those communities that contain lakefront or beachfront property, a large proportion of businesses, and/or large, expensive homes are able to raise much more property tax revenue than towns and cities without those advantages.

Students in those towns enjoy better and more-experienced teachers, fuller curriculums, more enrichment options like sports and the performing arts, and schools that are more comfortable and include modern learning and teaching tools.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN

In 1999, the state adopted a statewide property tax, in part to redress such inequities. But because the state never defined educational adequacy in terms consistent with its constitutional mandate, the tax changes have produced little positive change.

Meeting the challenge of *Claremont* would mean defining the factors that create a quality public education, determining what each would cost in New Hampshire, and setting that sum as the benchmark for the state obligation. It would mean enacting an accountability system that informed voters when school districts failed to deliver quality. And it would hold the state itself accountable for assuring a quality public education to every student.

Instead, lawmakers have addressed the issue of cost by first deciding what they were willing to spend on education, then creating a funding formula that produced that number.

By adopting such a formula, the state failed in its constitutional obligation. Five years after the court's clarifying ruling in 1997, no school district in New Hampshire can meet minimum regulations for education by spending at or near the state-defined "adequacy" cost per pupil ($3,556 for the 2004-05 budget). Per-pupil expenditures, scope of program offerings, condition of buildings, and quality of learning opportunities continue to vary significantly among New Hampshire's school districts.

Overall, the funding system chosen by lawmakers in 1999 – a statewide property tax along with increased business taxes – produced more-equitable tax rates between communities but not equitable spending on education.

Many of the less-affluent school districts, whose local property taxes had been extremely high, chose in the first two years of the reform to use most of their new state aid to lower taxes. Equalized tax rates dropped in 85 percent of New Hampshire municipalities; unchanged was the 2-to-1 difference in school spending between the highest- and lowest-spending towns.

Indeed, for the 2000-2001 school year, the gap between the highest-spending district (Newington at $11,328.22 per pupil) and the lowest (Allenstown at $5,455.37 per pupil) was more than $5,800 per pupil.

During the 2003 legislative session and beyond, attempts will be made to circumvent the Supreme Court's *Claremont* decisions, to lower the amount of school funding the state sends to communities and to change the formula by which that aid is determined. Most of these efforts will aim to decrease, if not eliminate, the state's Constitutional responsibility to fund an adequate education for all students.

Some lawmakers have voiced support for a state education aid formula that would target the neediest school districts. Certainly, some schools need more support than others, based on demographics, age of school buildings, and other factors. But targeting aid only works if it is coupled with a guarantee of a quality public education for all students in all districts.

There are several things child advocates can do to help ensure the constitutional right of all students to an adequate education:

- **Recognize and applaud efforts to define adequacy at a level that ensures a high-quality education.**
- **Urge community leaders to define the elements of a high-quality public education on a local level.**
- **Urge legislators and the Governor to reject the state's current adequacy calculation, reject any cap on state spending on education and reject a constitutional amendment to remove court jurisdiction.**
- **Urge lawmakers to fund a comprehensive assessment, by an independent qualified examiner, of the condition of all public school buildings.**

Facts and figures from .

Claremont School District v. Governor, 138 N.H. 183 (Claremont I). 1993.

Claremont School District v. Governor, 142 N.H. 462 (Claremont II) 1997. Available online: http://www.state.nh.us/courts/supreme/opinions/9712/school.htm

Concord Monitor. Formulaic faults: The present school aid scheme offers lessons to lawmakers. April 8, 1998. Available online: http://www.concordmonitor.com/stories/claremont/mit_augenblick.shtml

N.H. Center for Public Policy Studies. School Finance Reform: The First Two Years. October 2002. Available online: http://www.unh.edu/nhcpps/plumbing6.pdf

N.H. Dept.of Education. Cost Per Pupil by District, 2000-2001. Division of Program Support, Bureau of Information Services, April 16, 2000. Revised Reports, May 1, 2001. Cost per pupil does not include tuition and transportation costs, nor does it include capital and debt service. Available online: http://www.ed.state.nh.us/ReportsandStatistics/Financial%20Reports/CPP%202000-2001/CPP%202000-2001%20Frameset.htm

N.H. Dept. of Education. FY04 Adequacy Aid. Nov. 1, 2002. Available online: http://www.ed.state.nh.us/ReportsandStatistics/FY04%2011-1%20Press%20Web.htm

N.H. Revenue Administration. Adequate Education Costs, Grants & Warrants for Tax Year beginning April 1, 2002. Available online: http://webster.state.nh.us/revenue/municipalities/costgrant2002.htm.

Principal Statewide Partner

United Way

SUCCESS BY 6®

Leading Business Partners

DELTA DENTAL®
Northeast Delta Dental

verizon

BANK OF NEW HAMPSHIR

Foundation Partners

Orchard Foundation

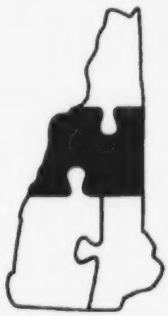
THE SAMUEL P. PARDOE FOUNDATION

2003 Children's Agenda

Fast facts

- Each day about 600 New Hampshire children go to school without a family home to return to.
- Fiscal year 2002 saw a 48.5-percent increase in the number of people turned away from the state's emergency shelters because all beds were full. Calls to the state's homeless hotline increased by 54 percent.
- It takes an income of about $65,000 to afford a median price ($162,000) existing home in N.H. A worker must earn about $33,000 a year ($15.77 an hour) to rent a two-bedroom apartment at average fair-market prices.
- More than 70 percent of jobs in 1998 paid less than $14 an hour. Of the jobs forecast to grow the most by 2006, 68 percent pay less than $14 an hour.
- N.H. now ranks 39th among the 50 states in housing affordability.
- Housing costs (including utilities) in N.H. rose 37 percent between 1997 and 2002, while household income grew at less than half that rate. Rents have increased at least 25 percent in six of the state's 10 counties since 1997 and more than 35 percent in Hillsborough and Rockingham, two fast-growing counties on the Massachusetts border.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN



NH CAN

Identify and eliminate barriers to the development of housing affordable to families with children.

Equal opportunity is a cornerstone of our nation. How equal is that opportunity for children whose families are homeless?

Homelessness has become a major issue facing children in New Hampshire and across the country. One in every four people in New Hampshire's homeless shelters is a child. Public schools here identify nearly 600 students as homeless on any given day, and education officials believe the actual number is much higher.

Homeless families stay in shelters, motels or campgrounds. Others sleep on the couches and floors of friends and relatives. In these circumstances, desperate to put a roof over their children's heads, parents leap at the first option for housing. Thousands of children either live in substandard apartments or their parents spend half or more of their income on rent. In those homes, there's little left for food, clothing, child care or health care. Rare is the extra cash for books or toys.

Homelessness devastates every part of a child's life.

Homeless children are far more likely than most kids to be underweight. They are far more likely to develop upper respiratory problems, asthma and even tuberculosis. As many as half have one or more developmental delays. All of these problems are exacerbated by the fact that losing their homes often means losing access to physical, dental and mental health care.

Homeless children struggle to keep up in school. They are twice as likely to repeat a grade, and twice as likely to be suspended. The time and energy most children invest in schoolwork is replaced by worry that they will have no place to live and that something even worse will happen to their family. They are commonly the target of cruel and unrelenting jokes. Homeless children are four times as likely to be sexually abused than are children with homes. They are more likely to be suicidal, to abuse drugs and alcohol, and to have multiple sex partners.

The trauma of homelessness can break families apart. Because there are so few family shelter beds, mom and kids often go wherever there is an opening, while dad goes to a men's shelter or sleeps on a friend's sofa or in his car while trying to hold onto his job. Children sometimes go into foster care.

Homelessness is a disorienting experience, uprooting children from sources of stability: school, neighborhood, friends and pets. Worse, it shakes their trust in their parents' ability to care for them.

It's easy to blame the victims – or, in this case, their parents. Parents living on the edge, working too many hours to provide basic food and shelter, don't have the emotional resources to meet their children's needs. They're less likely to advocate for their children at school and in the doctor's office.

In fact, the major cause of family homelessness in New Hampshire is the lack of affordable housing. Even the presence of two working parents no longer guarantees a family will be sheltered or fed. In 2000, a full-time worker had to earn $14.15 an hour to afford an average two-bedroom unit. During the same year, the average combined wage for retail and service sector jobs (the sectors that accounted for four-fifths of New Hampshire's job growth from 1997 to 2000) was $13.10.

The statewide median two-bedroom gross rent (including utilities) climbed to $884 during 2001 and early 2002, an increase of 8 percent from the previous year's median of $818. Median rents for two-bedroom apartments in Derry, Portsmouth, Manchester and Nashua have topped $1,000.

There are two reasons why this problem has skyrocketed in New Hampshire. The simplest is that when demand surpasses supply, prices climb. While about 40,000 retail and service jobs were created in the state from 1997 to 2000, only 3,547 multi-family homes were built to house those workers. In the previous two decades, New Hampshire created between 800 and 900 housing units for every 1,000 new jobs; in the 1990s, building slowed to 450 units per 1,000 jobs.

The other is the wrongheaded way we fund public education. Because schools are funded by property taxes (the majority of which go to the state and are redistributed to cities and towns), many communities resist the creation of housing – especially affordable housing. Taxpayers fear that multi-family housing will increase the number of school-age children and, with them, local education costs.

That resistance is manifest in local zoning regulations that make construction of new homes unaffordable to most working families. The resulting scarcity of workforce housing then drives rental costs, land values and house purchase prices upward. Families at the bottom of the income ladder, even those who are working, are shut out.

Child advocates can do several things to address the lack of affordable housing, on the local, state and national levels:

- **Make your feelings heard.** Most barriers to affordable housing are local. Attend meetings of your planning board and selectmen and support "starter" homes and multi-family homes in your community. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper.
- **Enlist the support of retailers and business owners.** They need housing for their employees and can be powerful allies.
- **Make sure housing is included in your town's long-term planning.** Don't let any discussion of new industry or retail development end without asking the question: "Where will the workers live?"
- **Insist that New Hampshire create a fair, permanent tax to fund education** so that local planning and zoning decisions aren't distorted by the fear of increased school costs.
- **Make housing a campaign issue.**
- **Urge state agencies to review and revise policies and regulations** that allow local regulations to unnecessarily add to the cost of housing development. Restrictive regulations often include zoning ordinances, subdivision and site plan review regulations, and impact fee ordinances.
- **Urge the legislature and Governor to create incentives** by distributing more discretionary funds to communities that reduce barriers to workforce housing.
- **Urge the state to provide professional planning assistance to communities** trying to meet their legal obligation to provide reasonable opportunity for the development of affordable housing.
- **Urge the legislature to allow municipalities to link "high-end" development to a certain percentage of more-affordable housing.**
- **Support the creation of an expedited appeals process through which exclusionary zoning practices can more easily be challenged.** Currently, appeals can take up to two years, making them economically impractical.
- **Urge the legislature to increase state funding** for water, sewer and other infrastructure needed to support housing development in rural areas.
- **Urge state legislators and the Governor to put money into the Homeless Prevention Fund and promote private contributions.** Preventing homelessness is cheaper than housing people after they're homeless. The state can immediately reduce the number of families becoming homeless by giving them timely help with their rent, heat or utility bills.
- **Urge your Congressman and Senators to increase federal support for affordable housing.**
- **Urge your Congressman and Senators to support the Housing Trust Fund.**

Facts and figures from ...

National Low Income Housing Coalition. Out of Reach 2000: State Ranks Based on Two Bedroom Housing Wage. Available online: http://www.nlihc.org/oor2000

N.H. Employment Security. NHetwork, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau. Nov. 2002. Available online: http://nhetwork.nhes.state.nh.us/nhetwork/default.asp

N.H. Housing Finance Authority. New Hampshire Consolidated Plan, 2001-2005: Appendix B – Selected Housing Data Available online: http://www.nhhfa.org/conplan/income_rent.pdf

N.H. Housing Finance Authority. 2002 Residential Rental Cost Survey. Available online: http://www.nhhfa.org/2002rentsurvey.pdf

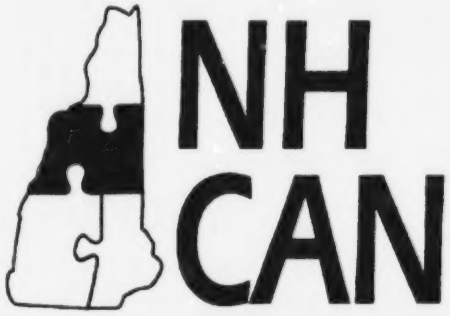
U.S. Dept. of Labor. State and Area Employment, Hours and Earnings. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Available online: http://data.bls.gov/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet?jrunsessionid=1038345820871154833

2003 Children's Agenda

Fast facts

- DCYF assessment workers are able to complete only 19 percent of their investigations within the required 60 days.
- In fiscal year 2002, the state received nearly 16,000 reports of suspected abuse or neglect. Less than half were accepted for investigation by DCYF social workers.
- New Hampshire's average abuse and neglect assessment caseloads are 40 percent higher and its foster care caseloads 44 percent higher than the maximum recommended by the independent Council on Accreditation for Children and Families.
- The 1997-2000 turnover rate among DCYF's most experienced staff was 41 percent -- almost double the national turnover rate. When vacancies occur, already-high caseloads are redistributed among a smaller staff.
- DCYF does not have around-the-clock response for reports of abuse and neglect.
- In a single day in October 1999, as many as 124 foster children — 16 percent of the state total — were in homes where the permits or licenses had lapsed or didn't exist.
- 37 percent of foster parents say they call their caseworker an average of three or more times before getting help.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN



Improve child protection services by achieving national standards and increasing accountability of the Division for Children, Youth and Families.

All New Hampshire citizens share a commitment and a responsibility to keep every child safe.

That commitment is embodied in New Hampshire's Child Protection Act. Since 1979, the law has required the state "through the mandatory reporting of suspected instances of abuse and neglect, to provide protection to children whose life, health or welfare is endangered ..."

This responsibility is shared by *every* person who comes in contact with children. New Hampshire's reporting law, one of the best in the country, requires *every citizen* to report to the state even the *suspicion* of child abuse or neglect. Enforcement of that little-known law could substantially reduce child abuse.

Unfortunately, enforcement would also drown the agency charged not only with investigating those reports, but also with providing services to maltreated children and at-risk families and with finding safe temporary or permanent homes for abused or neglected children.

Nearly 25 years since the Child Protection Act became law, the state struggles to meet its self-defined mission. Its child protection agency, the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), is under-funded, understaffed and under fire from opposite directions: those who believe it does not do enough to protect children and those who believe it needlessly interferes with families.

One result of those conflicting pressures is that DCYF does not receive the funding and staffing it needs to do its extremely difficult job. Its social workers have unreasonably high caseloads, inadequate supervision, and a serious lack of medical and legal support. Staff turnover, even among DCYF's most experienced workers, is staggering.

These problems, and their consequences, have been reported in numerous legislative hearings and committees, in the Family Foster Care Performance Audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, and compliance reports generated by the *Eric L.* class action lawsuit.

The tragic result of the state failure to support DCYF's work was most graphically exhibited in the death of Kassidy Bortner. The 21-month-old toddler died in November 2000 after being struck in her head eight to 10 times and punched or kicked in her abdomen at least twice. The medical examiner found bruises or abrasions on virtually every section of Kassidy's body - from her head to the arches of her feet - and four fractured bones.

A DCYF worker testified in the subsequent murder trial that the state had received a report of suspected abuse of Kassidy nine days before her death. No child protection worker checked on the child. Advocates and the news

media asked, "Why?" Officials blamed the inadequate response on understaffing.

Though child abuse deaths are extreme – and, thankfully, rare – child abuse is not. "New Hampshire's failure to protect today's children shall reap enormous costs for the state at other stages in a person's life. Much of the publicly funded response to juvenile crime, adult crime, and adult mental illness can all be tracked to early and untreated child maltreatment," wrote the *Eric L.* compliance panel.

It is clear that New Hampshire needs a new approach toward its child protection system. That approach should promote best practices, instill a continuous system of quality improvement, ensure sufficient staffing levels of highly trained and supervised workers, and include the oversight that the legislature, Governor, and the public deserve.

The independent Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services, Inc. (COA), founded in 1977 by the Child Welfare League of America and Family Service America, measures the organization and management of private and public child protection agencies against research-proven national standards. As of November 2002, two state child protective systems – in Kentucky and Illinois – were accredited. Another 11 states were in the process and 10 have one or more county systems accredited.

COA accreditation is a comprehensive process. Child protection agencies undergo a thorough self-study, on-site review and report in 16 categories of standards. Annual and "incident" reports are required. Unlike other accrediting agencies, COA uses a community-based social services model compatible with the way DCYF provides family services.

The goals of accreditation are improved planning, delivery and coordination of services to abused and neglected children and their families. But the process brings additional benefits: Accredited organizations report improved staff morale, reduced turnover and a greater feeling of integrity within the workforce.

Accreditation would provide both for citizens and for state government a reliable external quality control system, with standards independent of the vagaries of politics and public opinion.

Alone, however, the accreditation process doesn't create a sufficient level of accountability for New Hampshire's child protective services. As a publicly funded agency, DCYF must be accountable both to the taxpayers and legislators who fund it and to the children and families who are its clients. Nothing in the current accreditation process allows public examination of DCYF's actions in specific cases.

For years, DCYF has avoided outside scrutiny of its work by citing laws meant to protect the confidentiality of children in its care. In those cases where children are harmed most egregiously – in fatal or near-fatal cases of abuse or neglect – DCYF should publicly disclose specific information about what actions (if any) it took to protect the child, when those actions were taken, and upon what information the action was based.

This case-specific information should include no identification (beyond that required in current law) of anyone involved in the process.

Only with this combination of independent quality measurement and public accountability can New Hampshire's citizens and leaders intelligently assess DYCF's performance and ultimately improve the child protection system.

There are several things child advocates can do to help improve New Hampshire's child protection services:

- **Urge legislators and the Governor to require DCYF's child protection services to become accredited.** Our water-testing labs, District Court buildings, community technical colleges and community health programs are required by state law to be accredited. Abused and neglected children deserve no less.
- **Urge legislators and the Governor to make New Hampshire's child protection services more accountable** by making public specific non-identifying case records related to DCYF action in fatal or near-fatal abuse and/or neglect cases.
- **Publicize the findings and recommendations of the state's Child Fatality Review Committee,** which seeks to prevent child deaths through multidisciplinary case review, training and education, and data-driven recommendations.
- **Make sure you, your friends and co-workers know New Hampshire's child abuse reporting law.** Any person – including teachers, clergy, health care providers, social workers, child care workers, and neighbors – who has reason to suspect that a child has been abused or neglected must make a report to DCYF.

Facts and figures from .

Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual. Aug. 20, 2001.

Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. Accreditation Status of State and County Administered Public Organizations

Eric L. Oversight Panel. Fourth Report of the Oversight Panel. Sept. 9, 2002.

Eric L. Oversight Panel. Third Report of the Oversight Panel. Dec. 21, 2001.

Foster's Daily Democrat. Agency told toddler was being abused. Dec. 8, 2001. Available online: http://premium1.fosters.com/2001/news/dec/08/do1208g.htm

Foster's Daily Democrat. Beating death of Rochester toddler prompts call for better investigation. Jan. 15, 2001. Available online: http://premium1.fosters.com/2002/[illegible]/jan02/15/co0115d.htm

Lexington Herald-Leader. Child-welfare agency gets extra accreditation: KY. 1 of 2 states found to meet higher standards. Nov. 14, 2002

N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Eric L. Deficit State Fiscal Year 2003. Division for Children, Youth and Families report submitted to Fiscal Committee of the General Court. July 31, 2002.

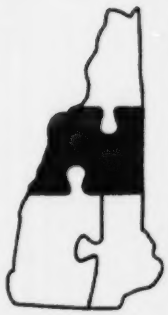
N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Family Foster Care Performance Review Audit. Office of Legislative Budget Assistant, September 2001. Available online: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/fc_2001p.html.

N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Length of Time from referral to DO to End of Assessment, in Days, SFY 1999, All Assessments. Division for Children, Youth and Families fact sheet submitted to the joint legislative SB 65 Study Committee on Abuse and Neglect Field Practices.

N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Office of Operations Analysis. July 2002.

Fast facts

- Between 1996 and 2001, 39 New Hampshire students were expelled for bringing firearms to school.
- In a 2001 survey of public high school students in N.H., 7.5 percent of the boys reported carrying a gun in the previous 30 days.
- Between 1994 and 1999, there were 164 firearm-related deaths in U.S. schools, accounting for 74 percent of all school-associated violent deaths.
- One in 10 N.H. adults carries a concealed firearm.
- An estimated 80 adults per 300 children are in a N.H. school during the course of a typical day.



NH CAN

Expand New Hampshire's safe school zone law to prohibit the carry of concealed firearms.

Gun-free school zones in New Hampshire are not necessarily gun-free.

Since Congress passed the Gun Free School Zone law, which prohibits firearms within a 1,000-foot radius around U.S. schools, many parents and educators have believed our children are not exposed to firearms at school or on school buses. But a loophole in the law allows individuals with "concealed-carry" permits to bring firearms into school zones with no fear of prosecution.

Most of the 43 states affected by the loophole, including the other five in New England, have closed it by including schools and school buses on their list of places where concealed firearms are prohibited. New Hampshire, where an estimated 100,000 people have concealed-carry permits, has not.

It is simple to get a concealed-carry permit in New Hampshire. Our "shall-issue" law requires local police to issue concealed carry permits to any resident who applies "for proper purpose," appears to be "a suitable person," and is not a felon. The law offers no definition of what constitutes suitability, leaving the police wide discretion. No training, no criminal background check, no fingerprinting and no photograph are required. There is no minimum age. There is no central database through which law enforcement officials can determine whether a permit is valid. Resident permits cost $10 and are renewable every four years. The same criteria apply to the 3,300 out-of-state residents who obtained a permit by mail in 2001.

New Hampshire requires that school volunteers submit to a FBI fingerprint background check before they are allowed to answer phones or work in a classroom. No such precautions exist to protect children from citizens carrying concealed firearms in schools. The no-weapons policies of many school districts are not criminally enforceable. It's possible a district could even be sued for removing or firing a permit-holder who brought a gun into school.

Regardless of their views on whether law-abiding adults should own and carry firearms, most people agree children and firearms are a dangerous mix. When they have mixed in schools, it has been with horrific results. We're all now familiar with the names of communities that experienced school shootings – Columbine, Paducah, Springfield.

No school is insulated from this possibility. A high school student in Gilford a few years ago was expelled for bringing a rifle onto school grounds. Because no state law prohibits the possession of long guns in school zones by students, police had no option but to send the boy home to await follow-up by a federal agent.

On average, seven New Hampshire students are expelled each year for bringing a gun to school. Taken together with this student data, the ease of bringing firearms into our schools unnecessarily elevates the risk to all of our children

Child advocates can help create truly gun-free school zones by:

- **Supporting legislation that prohibits the carry of concealed firearms on school property or on school buses.**
- **Urging your school district to adopt a strict "no firearms" policy** that includes adults with concealed carry permits. Ask for it to be clear, allow no exceptions other than for law enforcement officers, and be posted at all entrances.

Facts and figures from .

U.S. Dept. of Education. Report on State Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act. Reports available for school years 1997-98 and 1998-99. Available online: http://www.ed.gov/about/pubs.jsp.

N.H. Dept. of Education. 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results Available online: http://www.ed.state.nh.us/HealthHIVAIDS/2001%20YRBS%20Results.htm.

Centers for Disease Control. School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States, 1994-1999. Division of Violence Prevention. Jour al of the American Medical Association, Dec. 5, 2001, Vol. 286, No. 21. Available online: http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v286n21/abs/joc11149.html

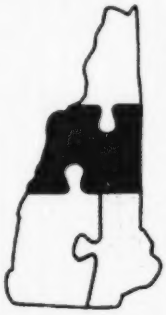
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN

2003 Children's Agenda

Fast facts

- Currently, more than 36,000 children obtain free coverage through the NH Healthy Kids Gold program and more than 6,000 purchase low-cost insurance through NH Healthy Kids Silver.
- Approximately 15,000 children in New Hampshire have no health insurance coverage; many are likely eligible for subsidized insurance through NH Healthy Kids.
- Uninsured children are more than three times as likely as insured children to go without needed medical or dental services, or prescription drugs.
- Uninsured children miss one-third more school days and businesses lose productivity when parents stay home to care for sick children.
- Lack of insurance puts a financial strain on New Hampshire safety net providers such as Community Health Centers, where 85 percent of patients earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and 41 percent are uninsured.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN



NH CAN

Ensure adequate state funding for outreach to, and enrollment of, every eligible child in the NH Healthy Kids health insurance program, based on current eligibility levels.

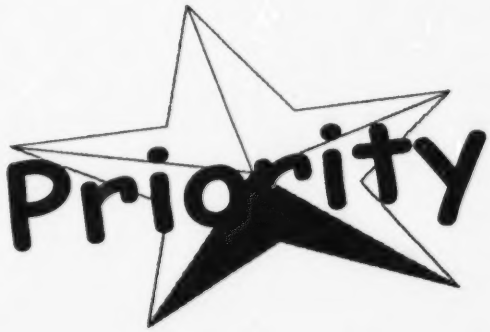
We all acknowledge the importance of taking care of our children's health. Yet the health of thousands of New Hampshire children is threatened by their lack of health insurance.

New Hampshire has done an exemplary job of addressing that threat through the state-subsidized NH Healthy Kids program. Since 1999, when NH Healthy Kids began providing low-cost health insurance to children in low-income families, the state has cut in half the rate of uninsured children.

More than 42,000 children currently qualify for free or low-cost health coverage through New Hampshire's State Children's Health Insurance Program. The approach and program design of NH Healthy Kids are proactive and progressive and have resulted in tremendous gains.

Household insurance surveys conducted by the state Dept. of Health and Human Services in September 1999 and again two years later indicate that the uninsured rate among children decreased from 9 percent to 5.1 percent. This has made New Hampshire's program a national leader and is a tribute to all who have worked so diligently to enroll eligible children in NH Healthy Kids. Our state has reason to be proud of its collective success.

Those accomplishments may be threatened this year by increasing health care costs and a growing number of families losing private insurance coverage because of layoffs and company closings. In addition, the state revenue shortfall and the changing political landscape suggest that Healthy Kids may be targeted for eligibility cuts. The reductions we have made in the number of uninsured children will be reversed if state funding in the budget for fiscal years 2004-05 is insufficient.



A cut in state funding could mean children now covered by Healthy Kids would lose their last-resort health care coverage. Even level funding might mean Healthy Kids would be unable to continue to reach out to families and maintain its current enrollment. Either would undercut ongoing efforts to enroll the estimated 15,000 children who remain uninsured, even though many are likely eligible for Healthy Kids.

We know that keeping children healthy benefits our communities and our state by:

- Preventing school absences, even school failures, due to ill health.
- Preventing losses to business productivity due to parents taking unscheduled time to care for ill children.
- Preventing increases in health care costs to all, when uninsured families cannot pay for necessary medical care.

During hard times, those parts of the social safety net that we know work well need to be strengthened, not shredded. Our priority needs to be finding ways to simplify Healthy Kids enrollment and renewal, while educating

parents about the value of health insurance.

Research from around the country shows that full enrollment is a difficult goal. Barriers include administrative hassles, knowledge gaps, and the perceived lack of need for health insurance. The enrollment and renewal process itself can be a barrier for families. As the pool of uninsured children has declined, those families who remain without insurance become harder to engage.

For example, many families have difficulty producing documents needed to determine NH Healthy Kids eligibility: current income verification, proof of their current street address, a certificate or record of the child's date of birth, and insurance card (if they have one). If the child isn't a United States citizen, an alien registration card is also needed.

Over the past year, the percentage of NH Healthy Kids applications containing all of the needed documents deteriorated from about half to one-quarter. The percentage of applications requiring three or more follow-up contacts has quadrupled from 6 to 25. The percentage of applicants who never supply the needed documents has doubled from 4 to 8.

New Hampshire has also experienced problems retaining eligible children, though not to the extent other states have experienced. In a January 2002 report, some 20 percent of former NH Healthy Kids families indicated they no longer were covered by the program because it was too difficult to stay enrolled. The same study shows that some families that are probably eligible for Healthy Kids believe they earn too much to qualify.

Family problems and misconceptions are exacerbated by systemic problems, inconsistency in how policies and procedures are applied, and resources insufficient to respond to individual problems. The easy fixes have been made. The "low-hanging fruit" has been gathered. Reaching and retaining the remaining families will require greater commitment and more resources. Our work is not done until every eligible child is enrolled.

There are several steps child advocates can take to address access to insurance coverage and health care for children in New Hampshire:

- **Fight any effort to reduce funding for NH Healthy Kids.** Let your elected officials know how important health coverage is for children. Let them know the Healthy Kids program is a great investment – every 20 cents spent by the state buys a dollar's worth of health coverage. Remind them that zero-growth budgeting can't work in today's health care environment.
- **Work with NH Healthy Kids** to provide opportunities to enroll children in your community, as well as to assist families with the application process.
- **Encourage the state Dept. of Health and Human Services** to increase reimbursement for agencies that facilitate the application process for families.
- **Organize an "Every Kid Covered" campaign in your community.** Health insurance coverage for every child is within our grasp if people focus on identifying and enrolling children in their communities.
- **Advocate for policies and procedures that further simplify the enrollment and renewal process.** Join the Covering Kids & Families Coalition workgroups that are addressing policy and retention issues and developing communications and advocacy strategies. You can join by contacting NH Healthy Kids at 228-2925.
- **Encourage medical and dental professionals, schools, child care centers and community agencies** to educate families about NH Healthy Kids, and to assist uninsured families with the application process.

Facts and figures from .

N.H. Healthy Kids Progam, Concord, N.H. Available online: http://www.nhhealthykids.com/Sept02cumenroll.pdf

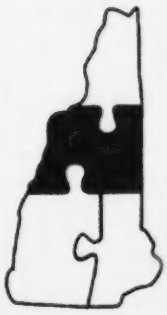
Urban Institute. Why Aren't More Children Enrolled in Medicaid or S-CHIP? New Federalism: National Survey of America's Families, May 2001. Available online: http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/series_b/b35/b35.html

Shenkman, Ph.D., Elizabeth. New Hampshire Healthy Kids Program Evaluation Report. January 2002. Available online: http://www.nhhealthykids.com/SBPDF/2Qreport.pdf

Fast facts

- Higher tobacco taxes reduce tobacco use and save lives.
- Unless smoking trends change, 34,000 New Hampshire children alive today will die as result of tobacco use.
- N.H. annually takes in close to $86 million in cigarette tax revenue and $47 million from the tobacco lawsuit settlement, but invests just $3 million of that in tobacco control.
- 16 percent of pregnant women in N.H. smoke - far above the national average.
- In a 2001 survey of N.H. public high school students, 19 percent said they were regular cigarette smokers, 13 percent said they had recently smoked a cigar, and nearly 6 percent said they had recently used chewing tobacco or snuff.
- Every 10-percent increase in the price of cigarettes reduces the youth smoking rate by 7 percent.
- Every year, smoking related expenditures cost each N.H. family $560 in state and federal tax burden.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN



NH CAN

Support efforts to raise the state cigarette tax by $1 per pack and dedicate the additional revenue to:
(a) a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program in New Hampshire at the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control best practice guidelines; and
(b) state-funded programs that meet the health care needs of children and families.

New Hampshire has a tobacco problem that cannot be denied and cannot be ignored.

Our percentage of middle- and high-school-age youth who smoke far exceeds the national average – some 4,200 children and teens in New Hampshire begin smoking each year.

New Hampshire's rates of death due to lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – both of which can be attributed to smoking – exceed the national average. One in every four deaths in New Hampshire is tobacco-related.

For many children, tobacco-related health problems begin before birth. Girls who smoke often become young women who compromise the health of their infants by smoking while pregnant. An alarming 38 percent of teen mothers (ages 15 to 19) in 2000 used tobacco during their pregnancy. That percentage is the second highest in the United States and more than double the national average.

The longer into her pregnancy that a mother smokes, the greater the chance of a low birth weight infant. Babies weighing less than 5½ pounds are at much greater risk of death in infancy and through their first year of life, and are likely to experience developmental problems.

All told, the health consequences of smoking cost New Hampshire $302.5 million a year.

Despite these troubling statistics, New Hampshire invests little in preventing children from starting to smoke, or in helping them quit. The $3 million it invests in prevention is less than one third of the minimum recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Ending child and youth smoking is a goal of all who care about children. NH CAN, working in coalition with medical providers and advocacy groups in the New Hampshire Healthy Families Campaign, has a solution: Raise the state tobacco tax by $1 (to $1.52) and use the additional $150 million to prevent tobacco use and meet the health care needs of our children and families.

Tobacco industry officials and others have estimated that a 10-percent increase in the price of cigarettes would lead to a 7- to 12-percent drop in the number of teenage smokers. The New Hampshire Healthy Families Campaign estimates that a $1 cigarette tax increase would reduce the number of youth who smoke by 18.3 percent. Likewise, the tax increase could significantly reduce the number of pregnant women who smoke and save $274 million in long-term health care costs.

Child advocates can address New Hampshire's tobacco prevention and health care needs by:

- **Asking your legislators to support the $1 tobacco tax increase and to dedicate the revenue to tobacco prevention and health care for children and families.**

Facts and figures from ...

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Medical-Care Expenditures Attributable to Cigarette Smoking — United States, 1993. MMWR Weekly, July 8, 1994. Available online: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00031803.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New Hampshire Highlights. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Available online: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/statehi/html_2002/NewHampshire.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Women and Smoking: A Report of the Surgeon General-2001. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Available online: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/sgr_forwomen/factsheet_outcome.htm

Child Trends. Facts at a Glance. September 2002. Available online: http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/FAAG2002.pdf

N.H. Dept of Education. 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results Available online: http://www.ed.state.nh.us/HealthHIVAIDS/2001%20YRBS%20Results.htm

N.H. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Available online: http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/TPCP/FAQs/default.htm.

New Hampshire Healthy Families Campaign. Support the Tobacco Tax Increase $1 a Pack. 2002.

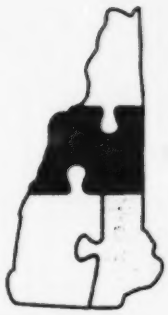
Public Health Reports. Cigarette Taxes: The Straw to Break the Camel's Back. Volume 112, July/August 1997. Available online: http://tigger.uic.edu/~fjc/Presentations/Scans/Final%20PDFs/phr1997.pdf

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Estimated Change in Industry Trend Following Federal Excise Tax Increase. Sept. 20, 1982. Available online: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/mangini/html/x/989/

Fast facts

- New Hampshire's minority population has doubled in the last 10 years. Manchester's black population increased by 149 percent from 1990 to 2000, while its Hispanic population increased by 121 percent.
- Nearly 24,000 N.H. children lived in poverty in 2000.
- One in six African-American children in the United States and one in four Hispanic children are uninsured.
- More than 70 languages are spoken by students in Manchester's schools.
- Of the approximate 15,000 children who are eligible for but not enrolled in NH Healthy Kids, 8,000 live below 200 percent of the poverty level.
- Nationally, black women are twice as likely to have low birth weight infants than are white women (13 percent compared to 6.5 percent in 2000).
- The cause of death for black infants is four times more likely to be related to low birth weight than that for white infants.
- Hispanic children are 2.5 times more likely than are non-Hispanic white children to report only fair or poor health.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN



NH CAN

Increase access to health care for children and pregnant women who are among ethnic or racial minorities or who live in poverty by:
(a) educating minority communities about the system,
(b) increasing availability of interpretation services, and
(c) increasing the cultural competency of providers.

New Hampshire's minority population is small, but growing in size and diversity.

The number of children who are Hispanic or members of racial minorities more than doubled in the last decade and now account for nearly 7 percent of the children in the state.

About 8 percent of the state's children — nearly 24,000 — live in poverty.

What these groups have in common is problems getting health care. People who are poor or members of minority groups are more likely than the general population to have medical problems, but less likely to have a primary care provider and less likely to receive preventive care.

The factors that prevent them from getting health care include patients' lack of understanding about the health care and insurance systems. Many poor and minority parents are unaware of the fact that their children may qualify for insurance programs. Immigrants may fear being considered a burden to the state.

Language differences remain another barrier, despite a federal law requiring that health services be made available in languages the patients understand. Some parents cannot fill out basic paperwork or communicate with medical staff.

Even when medical providers can converse with parents and children, they may lack knowledge or understanding of their patients' cultural values, beliefs and traditions about pregnancy, disease, health and medicine – even about the simple act of seeking help.

There are several things child advocates can do to increase access to health care for children and pregnant women who are among racial or ethnic minorities or who live in poverty:

- **Talk with members of minority communities** about how your agency or your community can best educate people with different cultural backgrounds about the health care system, including about the importance of preventive care.
- **Encourage the development and wide use of interpretation and translation services.**
- **Seek private and public partners** to fund transportation and interpretive services.
- **Encourage the medical community to offer more cultural competency trainings** related to the specific ethnic and cultural groups that are new to New Hampshire.
- **Urge the legislature and the Dept. of Health and Human Services** to put more resources into data collection, research and analysis.
- **Encourage local health providers to promote NH Healthy Kids enrollment aggressively.**

Facts and figures from .

Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2000 Census Data - Summary Profile for New Hampshire. Kids Count Census Data Online. Available online: http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/aeccensus.cgi?action=profileresults&area=31.

Child Trends. Late or No Prenatal Care. Available online: http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/health/coverage/25PrenatalCare.htm.

Children's Defense Fund. The State of Children in America's Union: A 2002 Action Guide to Leave No Child Behind. 2002. Available online: http://www.childrensdefense.org/pdf/minigreenbook.pdf.

David and Lucille Packard Foundation. Children And Poverty. The Future of Children. Vol. 7, No. 2. Summer/Fall, 1997. Available online: http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=72141.

National Center for Health Statistics. Births: Final Data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports; Vol. 50 No. 5. Hyattsville, MD. July 3, 2002. Available online: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_05.pdf.

The Urban Institute. Health Insurance, Access, and Health Status of Children. Snapshots of America's Families II. National Survey of America's Families, 1999. Washington, D.C. Available online: http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/child-health.html.

U.S. Census Bureau. Table Dp-1: Profile of general demographic characteristics, 2000: geographic area, New Hampshire. 2000. Available online: http://www.factfinder.census.gov

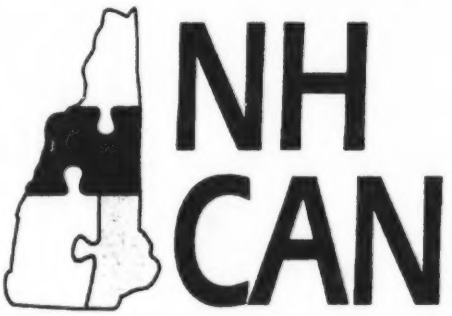
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Office for Civil Rights Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Policy Guidance on the Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination As It Affects Persons With Limited English Proficiency. Office for Civil Rights. Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 169, Aug. 30, 2000. Available online: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2000_register&docid=00-22140-filed

2003 Children's Agenda

Fast facts

- More than 60 percent of the primary caretakers of young children are in the labor force.
- Children can spend more hours in child care before entering public school than they will spend in classrooms in grades one through 12 combined.
- Whether in a home or a center, high-quality child care includes: ongoing nurturing relationships with warm and nurturing care provider(s) who understand child development and the varying needs of individual children; physical protection, safety and regulation; interesting and stimulating materials and activities; and limit-setting, structure and expectations.
- Children who receive high-quality early care and education are less likely to drop out of school, repeat grades, require special education, or become court-involved.
- The estimated cost to society of failing to provide at least two years of quality early-childhood care and education to low-income children is approximately $100,000 per child. The potential cost is about $400 billion nationally for all poor children now under age 5.
- By the time middle-class children start first grade, they have been exposed to between 1,000 and 1,700 hours of one-on-one picture book reading. The average for children from low-income families is only 25 hours.

Children's Alliance
of New Hampshire
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR CHILDREN



Support legislation and public engagement that strengthens links between parents, early childhood care providers and educators so all children, including those with special needs or who are impoverished, enter school prepared to meet their full potential.

Parents want to provide the best for their children. For most parents, this means more than food and shelter. It even means more than love.

Research confirms what parents have long known: That 6-month-old cooing in the crib needs a lot more than mother's milk and a clean diaper; he needs color, shapes, music, motion, lots of cuddling, and response.

Parents meet these needs in many ways, but while a parent may be a child's first teacher, he or she is probably not the child's only teacher. In New Hampshire, more than 60 percent of primary caretakers of children under age 6 are in the labor force. As the percentage of working parents has grown, so has the number of young children who attend early care programs, preschool and kindergarten outside the home.

Numerous local and national studies during the last decade point to the same conclusion: Quality early learning experiences matter – whether provided in the home, in an early childhood program, or in the primary grades. Research shows that the quality of those programs has a profound effect on children's cognitive and social development and later school success.

Children who receive high-quality early care and education have more-advanced language development, pre-math skills, and social skills. Quality early learning prepares children for school, improves their scores on standardized tests, reduces their chances of repeating a grade, reduces special education referrals and improves their chances of completing high school.

At-risk children are especially affected by the quality, or lack of quality, of early learning experiences. One large study compared two groups of 8-year-olds whose mothers had graduated from high school. The children who received high-quality early care and education had no more behavior problems than did the children of college-educated mothers. But the children who attended low-quality programs had significantly more behavior problems.

Even so, quality early learning is not enough. Recent research on at-risk children clearly shows that the benefits of quality early learning erode when followed by low-quality schooling. To succeed in the long run, children need a quality education that constantly reinforces their positive early-years experiences, and that fosters the involvement of parents.

Unfortunately, too few programs in New Hampshire seek to link learning experiences from the home, through early care and education and into grade school. Until those linkages occur, the needs of our youngest children will not be met.

Investing in quality early care and education is smart not only in terms of child outcomes, but in terms of dollars and cents. Quality early care and education programs are highly cost-effective. One well-respected study found that for every dollar spent on high-quality early

care and education, taxpayers could save more than seven dollars in avoided public assistance, special education, and criminal justice costs.

As William Gale and Isabel V. Sawhill of the Brookings Institution wrote, investing in early childhood education provides government and society "with estimated rates of return that would make a venture capitalist envious."

Child advocates can take several steps to improve the quality of early childhood programs and to strengthen the links between parents, early childhood care providers and public school educators:

- **Support a broad definition of an "adequate education,"** one that embraces quality early education for all children.
- **Urge New Hampshire's lawmakers to promote budgets, legislation and policy** that support quality early education, whether that education takes place in a home or in a center.
- **Join the Invest in Kids coalition** of child care providers working for changes in state policy and budget priorities.
- **Monitor New Hampshire's response to and compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act,** which has important implications for early learning.
- **Organize a community meeting and raise awareness about the importance of quality early childhood education.** Start a discussion that involves parents, your school district, and teachers at the pre-school, kindergarten and primary grade levels about what children entering first grade are expected to know and how to provide all children with the access to adults, books and the quality early learning they need to meet those expectations.
- **Encourage first- and second-grade teachers to speak publicly and regularly** about the children who arrive in their classrooms without the skills necessary to learn. Elementary school teachers are potentially the most powerful advocates of early education and they have been silent too long.
- **Talk to business leaders in your community** about the ways they can support local early learning efforts. Use *The Bottom Line: KIDS COUNT to New Hampshire's Future* report produced by the Children's Alliance of N.H. to get the discussion going.
- **Tell your own story.** Organize a public forum in your community, arrange a district meeting with your local legislators, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper to help business owners, policy-makers, and the public realize that this is a public policy issue, not just a private family problem.

Facts and figures from .

Brazelton, T.B. and Greenspan, S. The Irreducible Needs of Children: What Every Child Must Have to Grow, Learn, and Flourish. Perseus Publishing, Cambridge, MA. 2000.

Carnegie Corporation of New York. Years of Promise: A Comprehensive Strategy for America's Children. Carnegie Task Force on Learning in the Primary Grades, New York, N.Y. 1996.

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire. The Bottom Line: KIDS COUNT to New Hampshire's Future. 2001. Available online: http://www.ChildrenNH.org.

Children's Defense Fund. Key Facts about Child Care and Early Education: A Briefing Book. Washington, D.C., 1997.

The David and Lucille Packard Foundation. Long-Term Effects of Early Childhood Programs on Cognitive and School Outcomes. Children, Families and Communities Program. "The Future of Children," Vol. 5, No. 3, Winter 1995. Available online: http://www.futureofchildren.org/information2826/information_show.htm?doc_id=77669

Education Commission on the States. Starting Early, Starting Now: A Policymaker's Guide to Early Care and Education and School Success. Denver, CO. 2001.

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well Being 2001. 2001. Available online: http://www.childstats.gov/ac2001/intro.asp#foreword.

Fight Crime: Invest In Kids. Poll of Police Chiefs. Washington, D.C. Nov. 1, 1999. Available online: http://www.fightcrime.org/reports/police_chiefs_poll_report.pdf

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, Board on Children, Youth and Families. From Neurons to Neighborhoods. National Academy Press. 2000. Available online: http://www.nap.edu.

Peisner-Feinberg, E.S., et al. The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School. 1999. Available online: http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~NCEDL/PAGES/cq.htm

Rand Corporation. Investing in Our Children: What We Know and Don't Know About the Costs and Benefits of Early Childhood Interventions. 1998. Available online: http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR898/

University of Colorado at Denver. Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers. Denver: Economics Department, Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes Study Team. 1995.

The Urban Institute. Who's Caring for Our Youngest Children? Child Care Patterns of Infants and Toddlers. 2001. Available online: http://newfederalism.urban.org/pdf/occa42.pdf

U.S. Census Bureau. 2000. Available online: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Head Start FACES: Longitudinal Findings on Program Performance, Third Progress Report. FACES Research Team. 2001. Available online: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/core/pubs_reports/faces/PMC3rdReport.pdf

U.S. Dept. of Labor. Employment Status of Mothers with Own Children Under 3 Years Old by Single Year of Age of Youngest Child and by Marital Status, 2000-2001 Annual Averages. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2001. Available online: http://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.t06.htm

The Washington Post. The Best Return on the Surplus. Feb. 17, 1999. Available online: http://www.brook.edu/views/op-ed/sawhill/19990217.htm

2003 Children's Agenda

FOUNDATION PRIORITY

- Support public engagement and legislation to ensure the right of all students to a high-quality public education by using valid and reliable research to:
  (a) assess the cost of a constitutionally adequate education at a level which assures high quality, and
  (b) fully fund the costs through a sufficient and reliable revenue plan.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- **Priority:** Ensure adequate state funding for outreach to, and enrollment of, every eligible child in the NH Healthy Kids health insurance program, based on current eligibility levels.

- Support efforts to raise the state cigarette tax by $1 per pack and dedicate the additional revenue to:
  (a) a comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program in New Hampshire at the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control best practice guidelines, and
  (b) state-funded programs that meet the health care needs of children and families.

- Increase access to health care for children and pregnant women who are among ethnic or racial minorities or who live in poverty by:
  (a) educating minority communities about the system,
  (b) increasing availability of interpretation services, and
  (c) increasing the cultural competency of providers.

NH CAN
New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network
Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together

EDUCATION

- **Priority:** Support legislation and public engagement that strengthens links between parents, early childhood care providers and educators so all children,including those with special needs or who are impoverished, enter school prepared to meet their full potential.

CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION

- **Priority:** Improve child protection services by achieving national standards and increasing accountability of the Division for Children, Youth and Families.

- Expand New Hampshire's safe school zone law to prohibit the carry of concealed firearms.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **Priority:** Identify and eliminate barriers to the development of housing affordable to families with children.

NH CAN's mission is to drive governmental policy, align budget priorities, and inspire community action to improve the health and well-being of all children and youth.

Our vision is that all children and youth in New Hampshire will live in healthy and nurturing environments that enable them to reach their full potential.

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

NOTICE

Reproduction Basis

X	This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.
	This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").

PS 031253